

REMARKS

This Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Final Office Action mailed June 8, 2007. At the time of the Final Office Action, Claims 6-15 were pending in this Application. Claims 6-15 stand rejected. Claims 1-5 were previously cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants cancelled Claims 6-15 without prejudice and added new Claim 16.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 6, 10, 13 and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,445,963 issued to Terrence L. Blevins et al. ("Blevins"), and in view of U.S. Patent 6,564,329 issued to Edmund Cheung et al. ("Cheung"). Applicants respectfully traverse and submit the cited art combinations, even if proper, which Applicants do not concede, does not render the claimed embodiment of the invention obvious.

Claims 6-9, 11, 12, and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Blevins in view of Choung, and further in view of U.S. Patent 6,778,971 issued to Steven J. Altschuler et al. ("Altschuler"). Applicants respectfully traverse and submit the cited art combinations, even if proper, which Applicants do not concede, does not render the claimed embodiment of the invention obvious.

Applicant cancelled Claims 6-15 and added new Claim 16 which more clearly defines the invention according to the specification. Claim 16 is supported by the specification, for example by paragraphs [0025] to [0031] of the originally submitted specification.

Blevins, *Choung*, and *Altschuler* do not teach an automation system having a uniform configurable running level model including a low priority user level for system exceptions and a high priority synchronously clocked level. Moreover, *Blevins*, *Choung*, and *Altschuler* do not disclose that the user level for system exceptions includes at least one element chosen from the group consisting of a time fault task, a peripheral fault task, a system fault task, a program fault task, a time fault background task and a technological fault task.

Hence Claim 16 is not rendered obvious by the cited prior art.

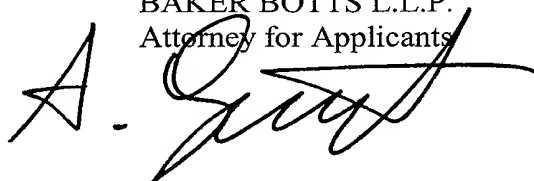
CONCLUSION

Applicants have made an earnest effort to place this case in condition for allowance in light of the amendments and remarks set forth above. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the pending claims.

Applicants believe there are no fees due at this time, however, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees necessary or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-2148 of Baker Botts L.L.P.

If there are any matters concerning this Application that may be cleared up in a telephone conversation, please contact Applicants' attorney at 512.322.2545.

Respectfully submitted,
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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Grubert', is written over the typed name and title.

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Date: August 30, 2007

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